

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating device comprising:

a movable belt for heating an image on a recording material;

5 a supporting member, having an elastic layer, for supporting the belt, said supporting member having an outer diameter which is larger in a central portion than at opposite end portions;

10 a pressing rotatable member, pressed toward said supporting member with said belt interposed therebetween, for forming the nip for nipping and feeding the recording material; and

15 pressing means for supporting opposite end portions of said supporting member and for pressing said supporting member and said pressing rotatable member toward each other;

20 wherein a surface hardness of said supporting member through said belt is smaller than a surface hardness of said pressing rotatable member, and said pressing roller has a straight configuration in a longitudinal cross-section.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said pressing rotatable member includes a core metal
25 which has a straight configuration in a longitudinal cross-section.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said supporting member is in the form of a hollow rotatable member.

5 4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a second supporting member, press-contacted to said pressing rotatable member, for supporting said belt, and said second supporting member has an outer diameter which is larger in a central portion than in
10 opposite end portions.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an outer diameter of a central portion of said supporting member is smaller than an outer diameter of said
15 pressing rotatable member.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said supporting member has a surface hardness which is smaller than that of said pressing rotatable member.
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